



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

PROGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

V.—THE PACIFIC STATES.

BY MICHAEL G. MULHALL, F. S. S.

THESE States, eleven in number, comprise more than 40 per cent. of the area of the Union, but are of such recent formation that they have less than 4 inhabitants per square mile, against 35 in the Prairie States. Census reports show:

	1850.	1870.	1890.
Americans.....	95,000	675,000	2,257,000
Foreigners.....	90,000	313,000	771,000
Total.....	185,000	991,000	3,028,000

The population in 1850 consisted of a group of gold-diggers in California, and it was not until 20 years later that these States began to attain any importance, viz.:

	1870.	1890.	1897 Est.
California.....	560,000	1,208,000	1,580,000
Colorado.....	40,000	412,000	650,000
Washington.....	24,000	349,000	640,000
Oregon.....	91,000	314,000	460,000
Utah.....	87,000	208,000	280,000
Montana, etc.....	189,000	537,000	750,000
Total.....	991,000	3,028,000	4,360,000

Here, as in other parts of the Union, urban population grew twice as fast as rural. The census of 1890 showed 22 cities, of which only 5 dated so far back as 1870. The returns were as follows :

	1870.	1890.	Increase per cent.
Urban population.....	199,000	901,000	350
Rural.....	792,000	2,127,000	170
Total.....	991,000	3,028,000	206

San Francisco and Denver are the only cities that count more than 100,000 souls; the former is now the seventh city of the

Union, having outstripped New Orleans and Cincinnati since the census of 1870. The Pacific States are remarkable for the great number of foreign settlers and the paucity of negroes, the former composing one-fourth of the population, the latter less than one per cent. The foreign element is, nevertheless, on the wane, seeing that in 1870 it stood for nearly one-third of the population. This is the only section of the Union in which British settlers hold the highest place, outnumbering both Germans and Irish.

Agriculture.—The area of improved land under farms has trebled in twenty years, and yet has not kept pace with population, viz.:

	Acres improved.		Acres per inhabitant.	
	1870.	1890.	1870.	1890.
California.....	6,220,000	12,220,000	11.1	10.1
Oregon	1,120,000	3,520,000	12.3	11.2
Washington.....	190,000	1,820,000	7.9	5.2
Colorado	90,000	1,820,000	2.4	4.4
Other States	480,000	3,640,000	1.8	4.9
Pacific States....	8,100,000	23,020,000	8.2	7.6

The new farms established in the above interval of twenty years covered an area equal to the kingdoms of Holland and Belgium put together. The production of grain and meat has been as follows :

	Tons yearly.		Pounds per inhabitant.	
	1870.	1893-95.	1870.	1893-95.
Grain.....	950,000	2,900,000	2,150	1,700
Meat.....	120,000	750,000	270	440

There is a deficit of grain, but a large surplus of meat, about 500,000 tons yearly. No part of the Union has such abundant flocks and herds; for if we take horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs collectively there are 8 head to each inhabitant, as compared with 3 in the Prairie States and less than 3 in the Union at large. The value of farm products is approximately as follows :

	Tons.	Dollars.
Grain.....	2,900,000	50,600,000
Potatoes.....	290,000	4,800,000
Hay.....	10,100,000	75,000,000
Meat.....	750,000	99,600,000
Tallow and lard.....	135,000	12,000,000
Dairy products....		4,000,000
Sundries.....		49,000,000
Total.....		204,400,000

This gives an average of \$13 an acre, against \$9½ in the Prairie, and \$14 in the Middle States. The production of grain

and meat in comparison with the number of persons employed in farming in these and the other States is shown as follows :

States	No. of hands.	Tons.		Pounds per hand.	
		Grain.	Meat.	Grain.	Meat.
Pacific.....	310,000	2,900,000	750,000	21,100	5,400
Prairie.....	3,060,000	50,300,000	2,190,000	36,700	1,570
Southern.....	3,850,000	14,600,000	1,630,000	8,500	940
Eastern.....	1,100,000	5,300,000	390,000	10,800	790
Union.....	8,320,000	73,100,000	4,960,000	19,700	1,350

If we admit the formula that one ton of meat is equal to 8 tons of grain it will appear that the labor of each farm hand is equivalent to 30 tons of grain in the Pacific States, 22 in the Prairie, 7 in the Southern, and 8 in the Eastern States, the average for the whole Union being 14 tons per hand. In other words, each hand in the Pacific States produces double the average. This is partly accounted for by the fact that the farms in these States are much larger, and the number of acres to each farming hand much greater, than elsewhere, viz.:

States.	Average farm, acres.			Acres to each hand.		
	Im-proved.	Unim-proved.	Total.	Im-proved.	Unim-proved.	Total.
Pacific....	158	166	324	74	78	152
Prairie....	95	38	133	60	24	84
Southern..	58	81	139	27	38	65
Eastern...	65	32	97	42	20	62
Union..	78	59	137	43	32	75

If the agriculture of the whole Union were on the same footing as in the Pacific States the improved area under farms (at 74 acres per hand) would reach 615 million acres, or 70 per cent. more than at present. This shows how efficient and economical is the labor applied in these States, where a machine with a couple of men cuts, threshes, winnows, and bags 60 acres of wheat in a day. The largest farms on the Pacific slope are in Nevada, averaging 1,300 acres, the smallest in Utah, average 126 acres. In the latter State the number of improved acres gives only 39 acres to each farm hand, which shows that the labor of two Mormon farmers is required to produce as much as one ordinary hand, not for want of industry on the part of Mormons, but because small farms are ill-suited to labor-saving machinery of the newest kind. There is an immense field for agriculture, as yet undeveloped, the Pacific States having only

6 per cent. of their area under farms (even including lands that are unimproved), whereas the farming area of the Union is 20 per cent. of the superficial extent. The following table sums up the agricultural wealth of these States, and shows the average value of land per acre in the census of 1890:

	Million dollars.	Dollars per acre.
California	772	57
Oregon	143	33
Colorado	110	46
Washington	101	46
Other States	187	31
Pacific States	1,313	48

The value per acre averages one-fourth higher than in the Prairie States, the price being abnormally high in California, by reason of the fertility of its valleys, teeming with wheat, wine, and delicious fruits, and enjoying the most perfect and salubrious climate in the world. The vineyards cover 30,000 acres, yielding 10 million gallons of wine yearly; the fruit-gardens produce 60,000 tons of plums and apricots, which is more than half the total product in the Union. On the other hand, these States are insufficiently supplied as regards poultry, the number of eggs produced yearly allowing only 110 to each inhabitant, or two-thirds of the ordinary consumption.

Forestry.—The timber area of these States is much below the average, but the State of Washington is exceptional, having 24 million acres of forest, equal to 55 per cent. of its area. The Pacific States have altogether 116 million acres of timber, and the annual cutting is estimated at 30 million tons, one-third lumber, the rest fences and firewood, representing a value of 70 million dollars, say 60 cents per acre, whereas the forests of the Union at large give an average product of \$2.20 per acre.

Mining.—The Pacific States are pre-eminently addicted to mining, the annual output of minerals, according to last census, amounting to 142 million dollars, or 37 dollars per inhabitant, against 18 dollars in Australia. The returns for 1890 were :

	Gold, oz.	Silver, oz.	Coal, tons.	Total value dollars.
California	610,000	1,100,000	120,000	19,700,000
Colorado	190,000	18,400,000	2,600,000	41,100,000
Montana	150,000	13,500,000	360,000	33,700,000
Nevada	170,000	4,700,000		10,100,000
Utah, etc.	300,000	13,200,000	3,220,000	37,900,000
Pacific States	1 420,000	50,900,000	6,300,000	142,500,000

Immediately after the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill, in 1849, California was invaded by a crowd of gold-diggers from all parts of the world. Down to 1857 the diggings yielded gold to the annual value of 60 million dollars, afterward declining to one-half, but gold was also found at Pike's Peak, Colorado, as well as in Nevada and Montana, between 1858 and 1863; so that at present California produces (as shown above) less than half the total. Silver was first found in Nevada in 1858, but not in any abundance till 1871, and mines of even richer ore were subsequently developed in Colorado, Montana, and Utah. The quantity of precious metals extracted in 44 years, according to a statement published in 1894, was as follows:

Period.	Tons gold.	Tons silver.	Value millions dollars.
1850-69	1,525	2,130	1,110
1870-89	1,104	20,980	1,465
1890-93	201	7,270	350
44 years	2,830	30,380	2,975

The Comstock Lode, Nevada, produced at one time (1871-76) gold and silver to the annual value of 24 million dollars. The yield of the Montana mines from 1862 to 1889 averaged 10 tons of gold and 90 of silver, together worth 11 million dollars yearly.

The annual product of precious metals in the Pacific States since 1890 has averaged 55 tons of gold and 1,800 of silver, worth 100 million dollars, which exceeds the value of precious metals that any country has yet produced, in the history of mankind.

Manufactures.—This branch of industry is of minor importance, but has quadrupled in 20 years, viz.:

	Output, dollars.	No. of operatives.	Dollars per operative.
1870.....	80,000,000	32,000	2,500
1890.....	360,000,000	152,000	2,370

California stands for 60 per cent. of the total manufacturing output of these States, as the returns for 1890 show:

Million Dollars.			
	California.	Other States.	Total.
Lumber.....	14	36	50
Flour.....	14	15	29
Sundries.....	185	96	281
Total.....	213	147	360

The value of manufactures produced yearly is equal to 119 dollars per inhabitant, against 141 in the Prairie States.

Commerce.—The trade of these States is mostly internal. The only port that has a foreign trade is San Francisco, the shipping entries of which have doubled in 20 years and now reach 1,200,000 tons. It is the fourth seaport in the Union, taking rank next after Philadelphia.

Railways.—In 1895 the Pacific States had 23,800 miles of railway, which had cost 1,210 millions of dollars, or \$51,000 per mile. No other part of the world possesses such a length of railways for population, since each inhabitant has 10 yards of railroad, against 5 in Australia, 6 in Canada.

Banking.—Discounts fluctuate between 90 and 100 millions. Savings-banks deposits reach 136 millions, or \$35 per inhabitant, these banks being found mostly in California, where the deposits average \$90 per inhabitant, or three times the average for the Union.

Wealth.—The components of wealth in 1890 were :

	Millions dollars.						Dollars per inhabitant.
	Farms.	Houses.	Mines.	Railways.	Sundries.	Total.	
California.....	772	974	83	236	469	2,534	2,097
Colorado.....	110	518	161	222	135	1,146	2,779
Washington..	101	432	8	93	127	761	2,180
Oregon.....	143	264	17	75	91	590	1,878
Montana.....	49	182	81	113	28	453	3,432
Utah.....	36	155	67	56	35	349	1,675
N. Mexico....	16	106	22	75	12	231	1,500
Idaho.....	26	79	47	48	8	208	2,476
Arizona.....	11	89	26	56	7	189	3,150
Nevada.....	19	80	27	48	6	180	3,913
Wyoming.....	30	77	5	48	10	170	2,787
Total.	1,313	2,956	544	1,070	928	6,811	2,318

There is no parallel to the increase of wealth which has taken place in these States. In 20 years wealth multiplied ninefold, viz. :

	Wealth, millions dollars.		Increase yearly.	
	1870.	1890.	Dollars, amount.	Dollars per inhabitant.
California.....	556	2,534	98,900,000	112
Colorado.....	18	1,146	56,400,000	260
Washington	12	761	37,400,000	247
Oregon.....	45	590	27,300,000	140
Other States.....	96	1,780	84,200,000	165
Pacific States.....	727	6,811	304,200,000	156

During the above interval of 20 years the annual increase of wealth for the whole Union averaged \$39 per inhabitant; the accumulation in the Pacific States during the said period was therefore four times the average.

Mortgages are not heavy, being a little over 10 per cent. of the value of real estate, but farm lands are much more heavily encumbered than house property, viz. :

	Millions, dollars.		Per cent.
	Value.	Mortgage.	
Lands.....	1,095	214	19
Houses.....	2,956	215	7
Total.....	4,051	429	10½

The rate of interest is very high, averaging 9 per cent., and in three States, Arizona, Idaho, and Montana, the average is 11 per cent. The annual burden of interest on mortgage is equivalent to a tax of \$12 per inhabitant, which is double the average in the rest of the Union. Insured property in 1890 amounted to 413 millions, or \$137 per inhabitant, the average for the Union being \$300 per head.

Finances.—Local and State taxes in 1890 summed up \$41,-400,000, or not quite \$14 per inhabitant, as compared with \$8 in the Prairie States. The difference is partly accounted for by the scattered nature of the population in the Pacific States, as well as by the large expenditure for schools, equal to \$3½ per inhabitant.

Education.—The level of public instruction is inferior to that of the Eastern or the Prairie States, notwithstanding the higher outlay for schools. The percentage of illiterate persons according to the census of 1890 was as follows :

	Illiterates, per cent.			
	New England.	Middle.	Prairie.	Pacific States.
Americans.....	1.7	2.8	3.4	4.5
Foreigners.....	18.1	14.5	10.6	10.4
General population...	6.3	7.0	5.7	8.3

From whatever cause the expenditure, compared with the number of school children, is much above the average for the Union. The returns of public instruction for 1895 showed the average daily attendance of children and the annual outlay as follows :

States.	School children.	Outlay, dollars.	Dollars per child.
Eastern.....	2,520,000	66,500,000	26.40
Southern.....	2,790,000	20,400,000	7.30
Prairie.....	3,610,000	77,900,000	21.40
Pacific.....	470,000	13,500,000	28.70
Union....	9,390,000	178,300,000	19.00

The average attendance of school children is very satisfactory,

being 51 per cent. of the number of children of school age, whereas the attendance for the whole Union is only 46 per cent.

In whatever aspect we may view the Pacific States, their progress must appear marvellous. Although of such recent formation that most of them have sprung into existence since 1860, they possess more miles of railway than any European state except France or Germany, and their wealth exceeds that of Sweden, Norway, and Denmark in the aggregate.

The share which corresponds to these States in making up the Great Republic may be expressed as follows: Area 40 per cent., population 6, agriculture 8, manufactures 4, mining 25, wealth 10, per cent., of the total.

MICHAEL G. MULHALL.